

REMARKS

Claims 4, 5, 9-11, 28 and 31-34 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 4 and 28 are amended. Various amendments are made to the claims for clarity and are unrelated to issues of patentability.

The Office Action rejects claims 4 and 28 under 35 U.S.C. §101 because the invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter. The Office Action also rejects claims 4 and 28 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, since the invention is not supported by a utility and one skilled in the art would not know how to use the claimed invention. By this Amendment, independent claims 4 and 28 are amended to recite "displaying...based on the compensated false contour." The specification and drawings fully support these features. Independent claims 4 and 28 satisfy 35 U.S.C. §101 and 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, since the claims are directed to a new and useful process that includes a useful, concrete and tangible outcome, namely displaying based on the compensated false contour. Further, one skilled in the art would be enabled to make and/or use the claimed features from reading the specification. Withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested

The Office Action rejects claims 4-5, 9-11, 28 and 31-34 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent 6,496,194 to Mikoshiba et al. (hereafter Mikoshiba) in view of newly-cited JP Publication No. 2001-083926 to Okomoto et al. (hereafter Okomoto). The rejection is respectfully traversed with respect to the pending claims.

Independent claim 4 recites detecting false contour generation regions from each of first video data for a previous frame period and second video data for a current frame period, extracting a motion information from the detected false contour generation regions of the first

video data and the second video data, compensating a false contour by using the extracted motion information, and displaying transformed video data based on the compensated false contour. Independent claim 4 also recites the compensating comprises setting a compensation value based on a velocity value and a size of the gray scale from the motion information, and adding or subtracting the compensation value to or from any of pixels whose gray scale has generated the false contour depending on a direction from the motion information.

The Office Action asserts that Mikoshiba's FIGs. 15-18B and col. 15, lines 60-67 teaches the claimed detecting each false contour generation region from first video data for a previous frame period and a second video data for a current frame period. However, Mikoshiba's FIGs. 15-18B and col. 15, lines 60-67 disclose a halftone display method that achieves a reduction of false contours by comparing luminance levels of pixels between two successive frames and by superimposing a weighted equalizing pulse on any pixel whose bit state has changed. Therefore, Mikoshiba does not teach or suggest detecting false contour generation regions from each of first video data for a previous frame period and second video data for a current frame period, as recited in independent claim 4.

Further, independent claim 4 recites that the false contour generation regions are detected in each of the first video data and the second video data. This differs from comparing two successive frames. Mikoshiba discloses pixels are superimposed weighted equalizing pulses depending on a comparison result of two successive frames. Mikoshiba does not teach or suggest detecting false contour generation regions in each of the first video data and the second video data.

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Also, the Office Action alleges that Mikoshiba's col. 12, lines 45-55 and FIG. 4 teaches extracting a motion information from the first video data and second video data including the detected false contour generation regions. However, Mikoshiba's col. 12, lines 45-55 and FIG. 4 describes a comparison circuit (comparator) 410a that outputs "+1" or "-1" for bits depending on a change of bits. Mikoshiba does not teach or suggest motion information that is extracted from first video data and second video data.

Further, independent claim 4 relates to false contour generation regions that are detected in each frame. In contrast, Mikoshiba relates to comparing two frames and then the alleged motion information is extracted from false contour regions of two successive frames. Mikoshiba does not teach or suggest detecting false contour generation regions in each frame (i.e., from each of first video data for a previous frame period and second video data for a current frame period).

Okomoto also does not teach or suggest the features of independent claim 4 missing from Mikoshiba. Thus, independent claim 4 defines patentable subject matter.

Independent claim 28 recites determining false contour generation regions from each of first video data for a previous frame period and second video data for a current frame period, determining motion information from the false contour generation regions of the first video data and the second video data, and compensating a false contour by adjusting a gray scale based on the determined motion information. For at least similar reasons as set forth above, the applied references do not teach or suggest all the features of independent claim 28. Thus, independent claim 28 defines patentable subject matter.

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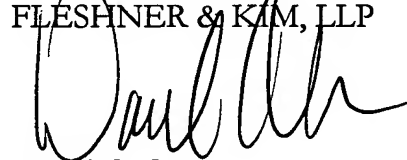
Accordingly, each of independent claims 4 and 28 defines patentable subject matter. Each of the dependent claims depends from one of the independent claims and therefore defines patentable subject matter at least for this reason. In addition, the dependent claims recite features that further and independently distinguish over the applied references.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance of claims 4, 5, 9-11, 28 and 31-34 are earnestly solicited. If the Examiner believes that any additional changes would place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
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